

works for improvement in riding quality in aggregate length of 33 kms. and reconstruction of five number of bridges have been sanctioned for an aggregate amount of Rs. 22.53 crore, since 2004-05. Repair and maintenance of NHs is a continuous process.

National Waterways in Kerala

199. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the length of waterways which has been declared as National Waterways in Kerala;

(b) the estimated amount-proposed for the restoration of these waterways;

(c) the amount that has been allotted to Kerala by the Centre in the current financial year to undertake the work;

(d) whether any complaint has been received that the amount earmarked in the current years' budget is very meagre; and

(e) considering very low cost of transportation through waterways, would the centre allot sufficient funds to complete work as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) The length of National Waterways in Kerala is 205 km.

(b) to (e) The estimated cost of making this National Waterways fully functional is Rs. 76.95 crores. A provision is Rs. 15.74 crores has been made for the year 2006-07. No complaint has been received regarding this year's budget provision for this Waterways. Efforts will be made to provide adequate funds for the early completion of work.

Goa Expressway

200. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Goa Government are proposing to construct an expressway in the State running from north to south;